

Austrian German – Linguistic, Normative and Political Perspectives

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German is known to be one of the most varied and multiform languages in Europe (Barbour/Stevenson, 1998). Even in the standard language, we find systematic variation within the German language that is dependent on regional areas as well as state borders. Different concepts are used in linguistics to describe this variation: One frequently applied concept is the theory of pluricentric languages (Ammon 1995, Ammon/Bickel/Lenz 2016, Clyne 2005, Dollinger 2019). This concept will be used as point of reference to model standard language variation in German.

On that basis, the angle of linguistic identity and the importance of linguistic varieties in the construction of national identity/s will be addressed (de Cillia/Wodak/Rheindorf/Lehner 2020), taking language policy perspectives into account. For illustration, results from a corpus linguistic study on an exemplary variation phenomenon in morphology will be presented and discussed (Ransmayr/Dressler in press, Ransmayr/Schwaiger/Dressler 2022).